

25352A

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket comprising a plurality of ~~individual pieces of polymer fiber blanket~~ polymeric fibrous pieces bonded together, wherein said plurality of polymeric fibrous pieces ~~individual pieces of polymer fiber blanket~~ are produced from a thermally bonded, uniform layer of flexible, polymeric fibrous material ~~polymer blanket product~~.

2. (Original) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said thermally bonded polymer blanket product comprises staple fibers and bicomponent fibers.

3. (Original) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 2, staple fibers comprise glass fibers and said and bicomponent fibers comprise thermoplastic fibers.

4. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said ~~individual~~ polymeric fibrous ~~pieces of polymer fiber blanket~~ are made of scrap material ~~polymer fiber blanket~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said ~~individual~~ polymeric fibrous ~~pieces of polymer fiber blanket~~ are randomly oriented.

6. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said ~~individual~~ polymeric fibrous ~~pieces of polymer fiber blanket~~ are arranged in a controlled pattern.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

25352A

7. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said ~~individual~~ polymeric fibrous pieces ~~of polymer fiber blanket~~ are geometric in shape.

8. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said ~~individual~~ polymeric fibrous pieces ~~of polymer fiber blanket~~ comprise a lofty, acoustically insulating portion having a density of between substantially 8.0 - 80.0 kg/m³ and a relatively higher density skin along at least one face thereof, said skin having a thickness of between substantially 0.25 - 10.0 mm and a density of between substantially 32.0 - 80.0 kg/m³.

9. (Original) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said blanket is an automotive undercarpet.

10. (Original) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said blanket is a nonlaminated.

11. (Original) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymer fiber blanket has a percent wet compression of between about 15 to about 18 percent.

12. (Original) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymer fiber blanket has a percent dry compression of between about 16 to about 21 percent.

13. (Original) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymer fiber blanket has a percent dry wet recovery of between about 85 to about 87.5 percent.

25352A

14. (Original) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymer blanket is thermally bonded to at least one uniform layer of flexible, polymeric fibrous material.

15 (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 13 further comprising a ~~second polymer blanket comprising a secondary layer comprising a plurality of polymeric fibrous individual pieces of polymer fiber blanket~~ bonded together in a pattern, wherein said ~~secondary layer of plurality of individual polymeric fibrous pieces of polymer fiber blanket~~ is produced from a thermally bonded polymer blanket product, ~~wherein said second polymer blanket is positioned between said uniform layer of flexible, polymeric fibrous material and said compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket.~~

16. (Original) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 13, wherein said polymeric fibrous material has a lofty, acoustically insulating portion having a density of between substantially $8.0 - 80.0 \text{ kg/m}^3$ and a relatively higher density skin along a first face thereof, said skin having a thickness of between substantially $0.25 - 10.0 \text{ mm}$ and a density of between substantially $32.0 - 800.0 \text{ kg/m}^3$, said fibrous material being selected from a group consisting of (a) thermoplastic polymer staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers, (b) glass staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers and (c) a combination of (a) and (b).

17. (Original) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 14, wherein said fibrous material is selected from a group of materials consisting of polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, glass fibers, natural fibers and any mixtures thereof.

18. (Original) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 14, wherein said polymeric fibrous material includes said relatively higher density skin along a second face thereof.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

25352A

19. (Original) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said blanket further comprises at least one facing layer.

20. (Original) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 17, wherein said facing layer comprises metallic foil, glass mats, polymer mats and blends thereof.

21. (Original) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said blanket further comprises at least one water barrier layer.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a plurality of individual pieces of polymer fiber blanket;
- b) laying said plurality of pieces of polymer fiber blanket in a randomly oriented pattern;
- c) applying sufficient heat and pressure to said plurality of individual pieces of polymer fiber blanket to form said compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said individual pieces of polymer fiber blanket are made of scrap polymer fiber blanket.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said individual pieces of polymer fiber blanket are geometric in shape.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said individual pieces of polymer fiber blanket comprise a lofty, acoustically insulating portion having a density of between substantially 8.0 - 80.0 kg/m³ and a relatively higher density skin along at

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

25352A

least one face thereof, said skin having a thickness of between substantially 0.25 - 10.0 mm and a density of between substantially 32.0 - 800.0 kg/m³.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said blanket is an automotive undercarpet.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said pad is a nonlamine.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said polymer fiber blanket has a percent wet compression of between about 15 to about 18 percent.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said polymer fiber blanket has a percent dry compression of between about 16 to about 21 percent.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said polymer fiber blanket has a percent dry wet recovery of between about 85 to about 87.5 percent.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said polymer fiber blanket has a compressive strength value of

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said polymer blanket is thermally bonded to at least one layer of flexible, polymeric fibrous material.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said polymeric fibrous material has a lofty, acoustically insulating portion having a density of between substantially 8.0 - 80.0 kg/m³ and a relatively higher density skin along a first face thereof, said skin having a thickness of between substantially 0.25 - 10.0 mm and a density of between substantially 32.0 - 800.0 kg/m³, said fibrous material being selected

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

25352A

from a group consisting of (a) thermoplastic polymer staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers, (b) glass staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers and (c) a combination of (a) and (b).

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein said fibrous material is selected from a group of materials consisting of polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, glass fibers, natural fibers and any mixtures thereof.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein said polymeric fibrous material includes said relatively higher density skin along a second face thereof.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said blanket further comprises at least one water barrier layer.

37. (Currently Amended) A compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket comprising a plurality of polymeric fibrous individual pieces of ~~polymer fiber blanket~~ thermally bonded together wherein said individual polymeric fibrous pieces of ~~polymer fiber blanket~~ comprise fibrous material having a lofty, acoustically insulating portion having a density of between substantially 8.0 - 80.0 kg/m³ and a relatively higher density skin along a first face thereof, said skin having a thickness of between substantially 0.25 - 10.0 mm and a density of between substantially 32.0 - 800.0 kg/m³, said fibrous material being selected from a group consisting of (a) thermoplastic polymer staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers, (b) glass staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers and (c) a combination of (a) and (b).

BEST AVAILABLE COPY